



30 July 2026

Dear Provider,

Updates marked for the attention of 'legal aid practitioners' are intended for all Providers, Barristers and others who interact with the Legal Aid Agency's systems and processes.

For the attention of all Legal Aid Practitioners:

Public Office Accountability Bill

To support the implementation of the Public Office (Accountability) Bill, the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) intends to accept tenders for legal aid contracts in the new Inquests category of law from August 2026.

This represents one of the most significant expansions of legal aid provision in over a decade and will create new opportunities for providers to support bereaved families through the inquest process.

The LAA welcomes applications from new or existing providers with the relevant skills and capability to undertake inquest work, regardless of whether they currently hold legal aid contracts or deliver inquest work under existing categories of law, such as Clinical Negligence.

Below are the latest updates published by the LAA on this topic.

Introduction of the Inquests Category of Law

On 8 May 2026, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) published its consultation, Legal Aid for Inquests: Changes to Fee Schemes, with a response due to be published by Autumn. The consultation also announced plans to introduce a new Inquests Category of Law for providers specialising in this area.

The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) will soon invite tenders for contracts to deliver Inquests work under the 2024 Standard Civil Contract. This procurement is being launched ahead of Royal Assent to ensure sufficient provider capacity is in place when the legislation comes into force. Service launch timing will depend on the Parliamentary timetable and the formal commencement date.

To view the Headline Intentions guidance document please click [here](#).

Inquest Training Course Survey

One of the requirements for the new Inquest category of law will be to employ a part-time equivalent supervisor. The supervisor will be required to meet a legal competence standard.

Our intention is to permit two different routes to meet the legal competence standard:

- Experience in carrying out a certain number of inquest cases; or,
- Attendance at an inquest training course that has been approved by the LAA.

To assist with this work, we are seeking views on the criteria and requirements that a training course should meet in order to be approved for this purpose. **The survey will close on 12 August 2026.**

For more information please click [here](#).

Should you have any questions on the new category for Inquests, please email:
civiltenders@Justice.gov.uk